



PRESS RELEASE

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, announced today that diplomatic relations have been formally established between Canada and Guatemala. Mr. Green and the Guatemalan Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Carlos Alejos, exchanged notes this afternoon on this subject. Mr. Alejos will be appointed by his Government to serve as the first Guatemalan Ambassador to Canada. Mr. W. Arthur Irwin, the Canadian Ambassador to Mexico, will be accredited to Guatemala as the first Canadian Ambassador to that country.

Mr. Alejos has been serving as Ambassador of his country to the United States since April, 1960. Before joining the diplomatic service, Mr. Alejos had extensive experience in public service and in private business.

Mr. Irwin, who was appointed Ambassador to Mexico in February, 1960, will continue to reside in Mexico City and make periodic visits to Guatemala in discharging his duties as Ambassador to that country. Mr. Irwin has served as High Commissioner for Canada to Australia from 1953 to 1956 and as Ambassador to Brazil from January 1957 to August 1959.